



NAHANT

Essex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Nahant is a resort town of rocky coasts in the southernmost part of Essex County. Used in early colonial days as a grazing areas for cattle, sheep and goat flocks owned by Lynn residents, Nahant very soon became a maritime community with a small population devoted to fishing. Settlers were granted land for homesites but only if they also spent time fishing and smallboat fishing developed before 1640. Disputed land claims were the hallmark of the town's early years since the Indian Sagamore George apparently sold the same town site to three different sets of people. By 1657, Nahant was laid out in planting lots of equal shares for all residents of Lynn with the requirement that all lots were to be cleared of wood in 6 years. This mandate effectively stripped Nahant of all its first growth woodlands.

The town became a resort mecca very early on with chaises coming from Lynn. Visitors stayed in boarding houses or private homes and the first hotel was built by 1803. In 1817 a steamboat sailed from Boston to Nahant daily and by 1826 a stage from the Nahant Hotel connected twice a day with coaches running between Boston and Salem. Fishing and several shoe shops were the major businesses aside from agriculture and tourism and even up to 1830 year-round residents were very few. Thomas Handyside Perkins, a prominent Boston businessman, built a hotel in Nahant in 1823 which featured a bowling alley and by the 1840's the town was already celebrated as the summer resort of Boston's elite. Incorporated in 1853, the town was the site of the most massive hotel complex on the Atlantic Coast and the location of an annual regatta. By the end of the 19th century, there was a visible shift away from hotels and toward residences.

An era of skyrocketing growth began about 1870 and continued unabated for the next four decades with construction firms putting up hundreds of summer homes for visitors to the town. In the modern era, Nahant has protected its residential status and farming and industrial activity have disappeared.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, located on a peninsula jutting south of Lynn and surrounded on three sides by the Atlantic Ocean. Nahant is 14 miles north of Boston; 98 miles south of Portland, Maine; and 232 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 15.48 sq. miles

Land Area: 1.24 sq. miles

Population: 3,828

Density: 3,087 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Middleton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.6°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lynn

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 581-0018

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1853

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,478		
Democrats	1,149	46.4	%
Republicans	373	15.1	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	956	38.6	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Nahant town, Essex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	3,632	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	3,632	100.0
Male.....	1,732	47.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	39	1.1
Female.....	1,900	52.3	Mexican.....	10	0.3
Under 5 years.....	164	4.5	Puerto Rican.....	13	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	174	4.8	Cuban.....	3	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	228	6.3	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	13	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	153	4.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	3,593	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	104	2.9	White alone.....	3,504	96.5
25 to 34 years.....	377	10.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	639	17.6	Total population.....	3,632	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	660	18.2	In households.....	3,577	98.5
55 to 59 years.....	267	7.4	Householder.....	1,629	44.9
60 to 64 years.....	160	4.4	Spouse.....	804	22.1
65 to 74 years.....	315	8.7	Child.....	871	24.0
75 to 84 years.....	279	7.7	Own child under 18 years.....	636	17.5
85 years and over.....	112	3.1	Other relatives.....	121	3.3
Median age (years).....	44.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	27	0.7
18 years and over.....	2,956	81.4	Nonrelatives.....	152	4.2
Male.....	1,373	37.8	Unmarried partner.....	72	2.0
Female.....	1,583	43.6	In group quarters.....	55	1.5
21 years and over.....	2,893	79.7	Institutionalized population.....	55	1.5
62 years and over.....	792	21.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	706	19.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	301	8.3	Total households.....	1,629	100.0
Female.....	405	11.2	Family households (families).....	971	59.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	367	22.5
One race.....	3,602	99.2	Married-couple family.....	804	49.4
White.....	3,527	97.1	With own children under 18 years.....	305	18.7
Black or African American.....	14	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	127	7.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	3	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	55	3.4
Asian.....	39	1.1	Nonfamily households.....	658	40.4
Asian Indian.....	6	0.2	Householder living alone.....	551	33.8
Chinese.....	17	0.5	Householder 65 years and over.....	191	11.7
Filipino.....	3	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	387	23.8
Japanese.....	5	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	479	29.4
Korean.....	3	0.1	Average household size.....	2.20	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	2.85	(X)
Other Asian ¹	4	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	0.1	Total housing units.....	1,704	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	0.1	Occupied housing units.....	1,629	95.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	75	4.4
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	28	1.6
Some other race.....	17	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	30	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.3	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,629	100.0
White.....	3,556	97.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,108	68.0
Black or African American.....	17	0.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	521	32.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	15	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.43	(X)
Asian.....	44	1.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.71	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	0.1			
Some other race.....	28	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	48
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Nahant is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways serving Nahant are State Routes 1A and 129.

Rail

Commuter rail service is accessible on the Rockport Line from Lynn Station. Travel time to North Station, Boston: 22-24 min.; 965 MBTA parking spaces available. Access to the MBTA Blue Line Subway is available from Wonderland Station. Travel time 17 min.; 1,223 MBTA parking spaces.

Bus

Nahant is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). There is fixed route bus service to Lynn and Boston. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

Nahant is within easy commuting distance to Logan International Airport and Beverly Municipal Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility which has 3 asphalt runways 3,500'; 4,634'; and 5,001' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Jesmond Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.